

REMARKS

With reference to the obviousness rejection combining Steinberg, Stephenson and Nishitani, Steinberg discloses a camera which can be programmed via a card 22 but has no inbuilt printer. Steinberg discloses a camera for which the features can be programmable and wherein images can be transferred to a card 22 for storage or processing by a PC which is remote. The camera does not possess an ability for self contained processing of an image as featured in the instant invention.

Stephenson has a printer which is not inbuilt but which can be connected to or not connected to as use demands. This arrangement has the disadvantage that it depends for reliability on the communication between camera and printer, requires that that communication be in a particular form to meet the limitations of the arrangement and appears to have no provision to replace the print media except by replacing the printer and associated electronics at the same time. Moreover, the printer is not always used, whereby an instant print of an image is not available and the utility of the arrangement requires co-ordinating the two separate components whereby loss, damage or misplacement of one makes the other not fully functional.

Nishitani, on the other hand, discloses a camera, the functions of which can be programmed using a card 12 which selects a pre-programmed mode of operation stored in a ROM 22. Nishitani does not manipulate the image after it has been sensed by the camera but alters the camera's features to control exposure. In this regard Steinberg can be programmed from card 22, but requires external communication via card 22, cable 80 or opto-coupler 20 to PC 14 in order to process and/or display the image captured by camera 24. While storing as an intermediate step, the image on card 22 an instant image cannot be provided "on the spot" but must await return to the vicinity of the PC 14. The instant invention does not have this disadvantage in that an instant image can be provided and in a desired form in a reasonable time.

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Therefore, the instant invention as claimed in claim 1 has features and advantages not provided by the combination of Steinberg, Stephenson and Nishitani. A self contained portable camera is provided which can produce an image modified by a (complex) programme supplied to the camera in a simple format, namely as an array of dots printed on a card. The number of effects produced can be unlimited or made up as required whereas in Nishitani the number of available options is limited by the code length the card can physically provide and is fixed by the size of the ROM in which the options are stored. In Steinberg, the programmability of the camera depends on the co-operation of a PC.

Similarly, Finelli has a camera with a detachable printer which may or may not be used with the camera. To work, the printer relies on co-operation of connectors 70, 78, which with repeated use or detachment and re-attachment of the two components, would make connection unreliable. With the printer inbuilt with the camera device in the instant invention no such problem would occur. Other disadvantages as discussed with respect to Stephenson would also apply. The combination of Steinberg, Finelli and Nishitani does not achieve the same result nor does this combination contemplate in any obvious manner the result of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that neither the combination of Stephenson, Steinberg and Nishitani nor the combination of Steinberg, Nishitani and Finelli achieves the object of the invention or teaches the invention.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully contended that all claims now pending in the above identified Patent Application recite a novel and not obvious apparatus which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending are respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

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We respectfully submit that the application is in order for Allowance.

Very respectfully,

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CLEAN COPY OF CLAIMS 1 AND 3

1. A portable camera with inbuilt printer device, said camera including:
- (a) digital image capture device for the capturing of digital images;
 - (b) an inbuilt programming language interpreter means internally connected to said digital image capture device for the manipulation of a digital image captured by said capture device;
 - (c) a script input means for inputting a self documenting program script for the manipulation and filtering of said captured digital image to produce visual alterations thereof, said script input means comprising a card reader for optically reading a script printed as an array of dots on one surface of a portable card, there being a visual example of the likely effect of said script on a second surface of the card;

wherein said script is interpreted and executed by said interpreter means to modify said captured digital image in accordance with said script to produce a digital image modified from said captured digital image, in the manner visually exemplified on said second surface of said card, and to provide a printout of said image on said inbuilt printer device.

2. A portable camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein said card has, on said one surface, a fault tolerant encoded form of the said script.